

TranScripts

February
2012

THE CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION ✦ PALOS PARK, ILLINOIS

On behalf of the Vestry, we are thrilled to announce that The Reverend Nicholas J. Romans has accepted the call to become our next rector. Fr. Romans is currently serving as the rector of The Church of the Transfiguration in Mesa, Arizona. He will be joining us on February 15th and will celebrate his first services with us on Sunday, February 19th.

During December, the Vestry and all of the members of the Search and Selection Committee had an opportunity to meet with Nicholas. We found him to be a charming and gracious man who possesses a wonderful sense of humor. While he was here, he conducted a Eucharistic service and an adult education forum for us. He proved to be a dynamic preacher and an excellent instructor. We were all fascinated with his impromptu discussion of the icons that hang in the lower-level chapel.

We believe that Nicholas possesses all of the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to lead Transfiguration into our future. He received his undergraduate degree in religion and psychology from the University of Southern California and his Masters of Divinity from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA.

He was ordained to the priesthood in Peterborough, England in 1983. He then spent the following eight years in England serving as a curate and then as a rector of a parish.

Upon his return to the USA, he worked for eight years as the Director of Undergraduate Advisement at USC while also serving as the assisting priest and assisting chaplain at St. Thomas of Canterbury and Canterbury US C respectively. This experience provided him with administrative skills which will serve us well as a pastoral church.

In 2001, Nicholas moved to New Orleans to become the founding pastor of a church that serviced the disenfranchised and unchurched. This was a growing community when Hurricane Katrina destroyed it and the surrounding area.

Having lost almost everything, Nicholas moved on to the Diocese of Arizona where he first served as an interim rector and then in his current position.

On a personal note, Nicholas has been in a committed relationship with his life-partner, Rex, for over twenty years. They have two dogs and two cats, all of which were rescue animals.

All of us who have met Nicholas are waiting with great anticipation and excitement for his arrival. We believe that he is the perfect fit for Transfiguration. We cannot thank the Search and Selection Committee enough for their hard work and diligence. We believe that they have done an outstanding job and have found the best possible priest to lead us.

Helen Fitch and Cathi Ratay

Please see the greeting from Nicholas to the parish on the following page.

Prayer for the Mission of the Church

-From the New Zealand Prayer Book

Draw your Church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving Him in His mission to the world, and together witnessing to His love on every continent and island.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is with great joy that I write to you, in anticipation of beginning my new ministry among you as your Rector. I have been holding you in prayer for many months, as the search process has unfolded and the members of the Search Committee and the Vestry and I have discerned together and with the Holy Spirit what we best understand to be the way forward in Christ for the Church of the Transfiguration. I am humbled and delighted to be the one who has been asked to take up this position among you.

In the next few weeks I will be concluding my ministry at another parish dedicated to the Transfiguration, in the Diocese of Arizona and in early February will be on my way to Palos Park. I will be accompanied by Rex, my life partner of more than twenty years, who is as excited as I am that we are on our way to taking our place among you. We will be bringing with us our household of two dogs and two cats, all of whom we have rescued from homelessness over the years and who range in age from approximately three years to sixteen.

I love parish ministry in all of its joys and challenges, and am blessed to have served in a variety of contexts, including the Church of England, where I was ordained and served for over eight years. I am confident that during the time that God gives us together you and I will discover new joys and meet new challenges and embrace joyfully all that we are given to do together in Christ's name. The bonds of affection that we form with one another will strengthen us and sustain us to do great things.

In the few weeks that remain until we come to you, please keep Rex and me in your prayers, offering them to God with hope and anticipation. When we arrive, as a community we will begin to gather in the harvest of God's gracious will for us and for the world.

Be assured that we are praying for you, too.

In Christ,

Nicholas

Palos Park Episcopal Day Care & Learning Center

by Suzanne Newman

The Palos Park Episcopal Day Care & Learning Center will be opening registration for Summer 2012 Camp and Fall 2012 Preschool and Daycare on February 21. Priority will be given to 5 days registration, followed by MWF registration and, finally, T,TH openings.

Our center serves children ages two to eight years. Please call 708-361-4066 to ask us to mail information; or arrange a tour. Our website is www.palosdaycare.org (please note the change from .com)



Church School News

by Debbie Trapp

In just two short weeks we will meet our new rector, Fr. Nicholas Romans. Our Transfiguration kids are excited about an idea for a welcome gift that they can present to Fr. Nicholas and Rex on their first Sunday with us - February 19. And it's something that everyone can help with. We know that Fr. Nicholas and Rex are true animal-lovers; they rescued their two dogs and two cats from homelessness. So from now until February 19, we will be collecting pet supplies: new packages of dog food, cat food, pet treats, cat litter, chew toys, etc. These items will be gathered together and donated in their names to the Animal Welfare League in Chicago Ridge, which as recently reported in the Daily Southtown, is "busting at the seams" and in serious need of food and supplies. Your donations can be placed in the designated bin out in the foyer. Thank you for your help!

THANK YOU! Thanks to everyone for your support of our Advent service projects. Your donations of cold weather accessories for our Giving Tree resulted in a collection of 41 hats, 13 scarves, and 37 pairs of gloves/mittens, all of which have been donated to Together We Cope in Tinley Park.

Your donations of stocking stuffers for our Christmas stocking project resulted in 17 filled-to-the-brim stockings which were very warmly received by fellow Transfiguration members and friends who, for various reasons, are unable to worship with us on Sunday mornings. Thank you all for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

An Invitation to Contact the Senior Warden

by Helen Fitch

As we continue through this time of transition, I invite you to share your suggestions, thoughts, and concerns with me. I want to hear from you and know what's on your heart and mind. I can be reached by phone (708-361-9806) or e-mail (hcfitch@sbcglobal.net). Let me hear from you!

A Sentimental Transition...

As we progress, enveloped in an aura of joy and hope, toward another transition – prompted by the calling of our new rector to our Transfiguration family – we offer our heartfelt thanks to our **Transitional Rector, Rev. John Keydel, Jr.** His experience, insights and guidance enabled us to pass smoothly through a period of change and uncertainty and to define and achieve our transitional goals. We have valued his support, caring, patience, interaction with our Day Care children, and his sermons! We send him onward with our gratitude and prayers for the next steps of his journey.

We would also like to thank **Rev. Dr. Gwynne Wright** for replacing John Keydel after his departure as our **Transitional Rector**. She, too, has guided us through this transition period with nurturing and direction, stepping outside the limits of her contract to provide pastoral care and support with critical administrative issues. Thank you and Godspeed on your next endeavor.

Daughters of the King Invitation

The Order of the Daughters of the King, founded in 1885, is a religious order for women and girls who practice the rules of prayer, service and evangelism. One of the things we do is open our eyes to those around us in need of prayers or help and pray, "Lord, what would you have me do?"

We welcome guests at our meetings, especially those who are seeking to understand how they are being called to help others. Meetings are held on Sundays at 11:45 am in the Lower Chapel. Upcoming dates are: Feb. 12, March 11. A special meeting will be held on Wednesday April 4 after evening Stations of the Cross.



Food Pantry

Based on your generosity at the end of 2011, we will continue to collect pennies for the food pantry. Yes, pennies. For only four pennies, food can be bought from the Food Bank to feed an entire family!

Thanks for donating to this wonderful cause. For additional information, please feel free to contact Cheryl Ryniak at ryniak@aol.com or Juel Hood at hstryby@yahoo.com.



A Final Message From Your Search Committee

We have been honored to gather on your behalf throughout nearly a year, learning and discerning, fretting and rejoicing, at last arriving gratefully and peacefully at the destination the Holy Spirit chose for us all. We thank each of you for your trust, patience and respect throughout the search and selection process, and now joyfully ask you to join us in welcoming the Rev. Nicholas Romans to Transfiguration as our new rector.

Fr. Nicholas has been called to guide us through our spiritual journey into the future, and we look forward to embarking on our mutual ministry of renewal by supporting each other and celebrating the covenant between Fr. Nicholas and our congregation.

We will be celebrating Fr. Nicholas's first Eucharist on Sunday, February 19. Each of you will have an opportunity to greet him personally at special Coffee Hours after the 8 and 10 am services that morning. Be sure to join us!

May we all be witnesses to Christ's love which surrounds us.

Your 2011 Search Committee –
Diana, David, Ed, Jane, Jeff, Judy,
Karen, Mike, Rachel, Sue

Help Us Help You!

Recent changes to privacy laws mean that hospitals can no longer inform the church if you are admitted. Combined with shorter and shorter amounts of hospital time, that means that we need your help.

Please let the office or the clergy know if you, a loved one, or a friend is in the hospital. We will be happy to visit, include someone in the prayer list, or help provide meals, but please keep us informed. Thanks!

Uncle Sam and Your Cash Gifts



In recent years, the IRS imposed significantly more stringent record-keeping requirements for cash gifts to non-profit organizations like Transfiguration. Hand-written notes to yourself no longer are acceptable as documentation of such gifts for tax purposes. Whenever you make a cash gift, please use your offering envelopes or a gift envelope from the pews or the usher table, and write your name on the envelope. That will ensure that your gift is recorded on your giving statement, which satisfies the IRS.



Altar Guild

The Altar Guild would like to thank everyone who purchased cookies and cakes at their recent Bake Sale. We made a little over \$400, which will go a long way toward helping us maintain, and potentially upgrade the quality of the vestments and other items used for services.

We are tentatively planning to have the Bake Sale again this December and would like to add a "Trash and Treasures" sale. We will be collecting holiday decorations that you may no longer use. It's the ultimate in recycling and it's for a great cause! Thank you again for your support.

2011 Giving Statements have been distributed.

Please contact the church office if you have any questions about your statement.

New Year, New Rector, New Resolutions!

So many things for each of us to remember in 2012...so here's a handy personal checklist for your refrigerator:

- **Pray each day**, even if it's only for a minute during lunch or in the car
- **Wear my name tag** on Sundays and to fellowship events - even if it doesn't match my outfit
- **Try a ministry** I've been curious about, or champion a new one
- **Get to know my pew neighbors**, especially the ones I see each week but whose names I can't always recall
- **Pay kind attention to the children** who grace my church family, including the fidgety ones. They are unique, special gifts from God and the future of my church.
- **Update my directory profile**, including my picture and e-mail address.
- **Carry Christ in my heart**, from church into my everyday life. Tell people about Transfiguration. Be consciously welcoming.
- **Be present**. Listen. Be thankful. Love. Witness. Ask questions. Learn.
- **Share my gifts and talents** freely and graciously receive those of others.
- **Reach out** to a parishioner who may not be able to manage the trip to church each Sunday.
- **Be as generous as possible**. The church budget is one of life's realities.
- **Ask for help** when I need it and be aware of others who may be reluctant to ask.
- **Celebrate – life, and the love of the Holy Spirit that surrounds us!**

Treasurer Report

by Karen Wirth

79 pledges totaling \$202,691 have been received for 2012, an \$8,016, or 4%, increase over 2011 actual pledge receipts. 70% of 2012 pledges received were increases over last year. We received 12 new pledges totaling \$17,000 from people who were not on the pledge roll last year.

2011 concluded in a positive financial position, with income exceeding expenses. We begin 2012 with a balanced budget. 2011 financial statements and the 2012 budget were presented at the January 29, 2012 annual parish meeting.

Summaries can be viewed at: www.transfigpalos.org

Ballots will be received through February 29, 2012 for the vote to approve a new mortgage for the church. Funds would be used for roof repair or replacement and building repairs related to the roofing project. Details are available on our web site at: <http://transfigpalos.org/about-us/2012-church-roof/>

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Parish was held on Sunday, January 29 after the 9am service. Elections for the Vestry and Day Care Board were held. Rob Carr, Bea Hiznay, Pat Jonikaitis, and Britta Beardsley (Youth Group Representative) were elected to the Vestry; Marian Higgins, Paula Leach, Rachel Ochoa, and Dee Wagner were elected to the Day Care Board.

Copies of the 2011 Annual Report are available at church or on our web site at www.transfigpalos.org.

Prayer Blanket Ministry

Please remember that everyone is welcome to help with prayer blankets on the **second** Thursday of every month at 7 pm in Leach Hall. (This is a change from the first Thursday of the month.)

No supplies, signup, skills or preparation are required. Simply stop in to lend a hand and offer prayers for those in need. Contact Katherine Hamann if you know of someone who needs a blanket prayerfully constructed by caring hands.



Web Site Update
www.transfigpalos.org

Our site has a new design with more powerful colors and more information. It is always evolving, so visit often to see what's new. You'll find the latest church calendar of events; important notes front and center on the home page; TranScripts archives; ministry descriptions and contacts, and more.

"People pictures" make the site unique, so if you have photos to share please send them to kcortese@transfigpalos.org. We'd love to include pictures of the men and women we pray for each week who are serving in the military, along with other pictures that show us being us.



We Want You to "Like" Us!

If you have a Facebook page, be sure to "Like" The Church of the Transfiguration. Stay involved by sharing interesting articles and comments, watch Bishop Lee's thoughtful videos, or simply check in regularly to view pictures from our church events. And don't be shy, upload your own pictures too.

Already like our page? Invite your friends to "like" it too. They'll receive up-to-date information and reminders through their Newsfeeds and see photo albums that can't be seen anywhere else!



Ash Wednesday Eucharist will be celebrated on February 22 at Noon and 7 pm.

Youth Group News

The Senior High Youth Group will be hosting a 50's Diner Night fundraiser on Tuesday, February 21 from 6:30 – 8 pm. Help us celebrate Fat Tuesday and welcome Fr. Nicholas to the church!

The menu includes a number of 50's staples from meat loaf and vegetarian chili to root beer floats and an array of desserts. For tips, Youth Group members will groove along to some of your favorite 50's songs, and you can even get your photo taken with a pink Cadillac. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased from any of the Youth Group members. Celebrate the beginning of Lent with the Youth Group!



Reminder:

We will begin delivering *TranScripts* by e-mail to those with e-mail addresses on file.

Please sign up on the home page of our web site or check the Parish Directory to be sure that we have your current e-mail address.

Thanks for helping to keep our costs down.

All members of the Church of the Transfiguration are asked to vote on an important financial decision affecting the church. The ballot to approve financing for roof and building repairs can be found on our website at <http://transfigpalos.org/about-us/2012-church-roof/>.

You can also print and sign the ballot on page 10. Ballots may be brought or mailed to church. Voting ends on February 29, 2012. Don't forget to read Mortgage FAQ's on page 8 and 9!

Call Helen Fitch, Senior Warden (708) 361-9806; Cathi Ratay, Junior Warden (630) 257-2799; or Karen Wirth, Treasurer (708) 826-3022 with questions.

Frequently Asked Questions About a New Mortgage at Transfiguration

by Cathi Ratay, Warden

I thought we just paid off our mortgage at Transfiguration this past summer?

1. Why the need for a new mortgage?

Church of the Transfiguration is 61 years old. We have four distinctly different roofing systems. The roofs can no longer be repaired, but must be replaced, including much of the masonry structure on the buildings. The project is larger than we can budget for with the money received via pledges and contributions.

2. But I see work being done already. Where did that money come from?

On an emergency basis, we have liquidated \$90,000 from the Endowment Fund to underwrite three of the roofing systems and the related masonry work. The mild winter weather thus far has moved the project along nicely. The roofing system over the major part of the church, however, is in critical condition, but we will not tackle that one until we have secured a new mortgage.

3. How much will the new mortgage be for?

We plan to apply for a \$200,000 mortgage. \$90,000 of it will go immediately back into the Endowment Fund, and the remaining amount will cover the biggest roof, related construction issues, as well as redoing the bell tower.

4. Why repay our Endowment Fund?

It would be unwise not to repay our Endowment Fund. The principle will continue to generate interest and the entire Fund will continue its steady, upward growth, provided Transfiguration does not rob it of that capability.

5. How will we pay this new mortgage off?

The mortgage payment will be figured into our yearly operating budget. As always, every family is encouraged to be thoughtful when pledging and contributing to Transfiguration. Please keep your pledges up to date year round; if you are not currently a pledging or contributing member, please consider becoming one!

6. Who determines whether we take out a mortgage?

All eligible members of the Church of the Transfiguration will be asked to cast a vote on this important issue. We must have 2/3 of the eligible voting population vote in favor.

7. What does 'eligible' mean?

An eligible voter is a baptized Christian and member of Transfiguration, 16 years of age and above, who is 'known to the Treasurer', i.e. pledges or is a contributor of record, and who attended regular Sunday services a minimum of three (3) times in the past six (6) months before the January 29, 2012 Annual Parish Meeting.

Over ►

8. What if I'm not at the Annual Parish Meeting on January 29th following the single 9 am service to vote?

We will have tear-off ballots in the bulletins for several Sundays throughout February and March, as well as in the *Transcripts* those months. Please vote 'Yes' or 'No' and sign the ballot. The Wardens and Treasurer will tally the votes; voting ends 60 days after the Annual Parish Meeting.

9. If the proposal for a new mortgage passes, what happens next?

The Wardens and Treasurer must go before the Diocesan Standing Committee to seek approval at the Diocesan level. We can then make final arrangements with a financial institution, as we have done before, to put the mortgage in place. After all of those steps, we can begin phase two, replacing the biggest roofing system over the main church building.

10. What happens if I vote 'No' or the vote fails?

Well, we'll be in trouble. We will have to deplete the rest our Endowment Fund with the express idea of never repaying it for the next emergency or 'rainy day'. Or, we could allow this asset to continue to decay, and speaking of a 'rainy day' you'll probably see some of that in your pew eventually!



**Church of the Transfiguration
Palos Park, Illinois**

**January 29, 2012 Annual Meeting
BALLOT**

Vote “yes” or “no” to ratify the following resolution which was passed by the Vestry at a special meeting held on November 13, 2011:

“Whereas the Vestry of the Church of the Transfiguration has authorized and directed the Trustees of the Endowment Fund of the Church of the Transfiguration to grant a short term loan to permit necessary roof and masonry repairs,

Be it resolved that the parish of Transfiguration authorizes the Vestry to restructure this short term loan with a long term debt up to \$200,000 including the possible encumbrance of parish property, of sufficient duration appropriate to the capital nature of the work being done.”

_____ **YES**

_____ **NO**

Print Name

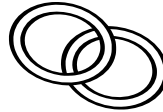
Signature

Date



Birthday Blessings

February 5	Mitzi Swanson Helen Ruzicka Mary Haddad
February 6	Nancy Petro Jeanne Preston Nadia Jesuthasan
February 7	Bob Wyatt Susan Cartee Lisa Carroll
February 10	Walter Wagner Dan Higgins
February 13	Kirk Powell Anna Karrison
February 14	Mary Ellyn Staffel
February 15	Linda Kirby Savannah Swistek
February 17	Pat Jonikaitis Sue Jarrell
February 18	Lane Hensley
February 20	Loretta Pawley Ed Kramer Cassandra Newman Christopher Slechta
February 21	Marge Beavers Anne Walsh
February 22	Damion Hallstrom Matt Enright
February 23	Bill Bergamini
February 24	Erwin Wirth
February 25	Irene Rogers
February 27	Tim Walsh Jayden Jeka
February 29	Colin Freund Ron Newman



Anniversary Blessings

February 14	Tony & Jeanne Preston
February 19	Richard & Kathleen Haucke
February 21	Ted & Joan Karrison
February 25	Mike & Meilyn Donohue

◆ Directory ◆

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee, Bishop of Chicago
bishop@epischicago.org

The Rev. Dr. Gwynne Wright, Transitional Rector
Gwynne.Wright@sbcglobal.net

Helen Fitch, Senior Warden
hcfitch@sbcglobal.net

Cathi Ratay, Junior Warden
cathiratay@hotmail.com

Karen Wirth, Treasurer
tagwin@aol.com

Jeanne Preston, Church School Superintendent
jpreston@transfigpalos.org

Debbie Trapp, Director of Children & Youth Ministries
trappsrus@sbcglobal.net

Kathy Cortese, Parish Manager
kcortese@transfigpalos.org



THE CHURCH OF THE
TRANSFIGURATION

12219 SOUTH 86TH AVENUE
PALOS PARK, ILLINOIS 60464-1263

Address Correction

Non-Profit

Organization

Palos Park, IL

60464

Postage Paid

Permit 11